

THE WEST COLUMBIA BULLETIN

heed the warnings and prepare.

You know, there is another sermon that all of us who read our Bibles hear every day. The message is exactly the same: Prepare! The day of judgment is coming. The Hebrew writer said that it is appointed for all men to die and then face the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Paul told the people of Athens that Jesus will someday judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:31). When that day comes we will all stand before the judgment seat of Jesus and give an answer for the things that we have done in the body, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10).

It is conceivable that Hurricane Ike will be the very last hurricane that will ever strike the United States. Nature is funny that way. You never know when a natural disaster will occur. But, it is just as likely that a dozen more will strike before the end of time. However, what is absolutely certain is that the day of judgment will come. It has been appointed by God, and the judgment will come just as surely as the flood of Noah's day came because God promised it (2 Peter 3:1-7). And, it is just as certain that many people will not be prepared, even though they have Bibles and read them. They know the certainty with which the judgment day is promised by God, but when it comes they will be like the foolish virgins who did not take enough oil for their lamps (Matthew 25:1-13). These people will not have prepared their lives by obeying the gospel of Christ. And, like the virgins, they will hear the Lord say: "*Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you*" (vs. 12).

Dear readers, the judgment day is coming. It will be a far more momentous day than the landfall of Hurricane Ike. Get ready now, obey the gospel, be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38), and then serve God faithfully. When the day of judgment comes all the water and bags of ice in the world won't help you.

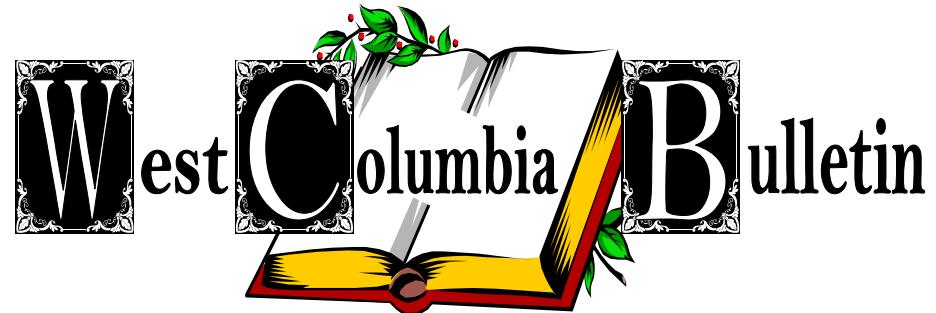
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Visit Our Website For Free Bible Study Material:

Schedule Of Services...

	Sunday:
Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Worship	9:50 a.m.
Worship	6:00 p.m.
	Wednesday:
Bible Classes	7:00 p.m.



June 21, 2020

The Sacrifice of Jesus

David Weak

John wrote: "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved*" (John 3:16-17). The Old Testament is filled with laws concerning animal sacrifices which the people had to make because of their many sins. However, none of the sacrifices, while accomplishing the purpose God intended in them, supplied the forgiveness of sins for the people. The Hebrew writer said: "*For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take*

away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). For this reason, a better sacrifice was needed in order for sins to be taken away. That sacrifice was Jesus Christ.

The death of Jesus on the Cross was a sacrifice made by the Father on behalf of sinful men. God required Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac on an altar, foreshadowing the sacrifice that God would make by sending His Son to die for us. God ultimately stopped Abraham from killing his only Son, but He didn't stop the Roman soldiers from nailing His Son to the cross.

The sacrifice of a spotless lamb in the Old Testament meant the killing of

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an innocent, sinless life on behalf of a sinner. Jesus was also a sinless sacrifice. Paul said, *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21; cf: 1 John 3:5). He died on the cross, not for His own sins, but for the sins of mankind. He was wounded for OUR transgressions, not His own (Isaiah 53:5; Galatians 1:4; Romans 5:6).

How much are you willing to sacrifice for Jesus Christ? Paul said that you must present your body to God as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2). Are you willing to forsake the world and its pleasures for Jesus Christ? That is what you must do in response to the sacrifice of Jesus: *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"* (vs. 2). God loved you enough to send his Son to die for you. Shouldn't you be willing to give your life to Him?

Are you willing to sacrifice your preconceived

religious beliefs if they are not in harmony with the revealed word of God? The doctrines taught by men are anathema (Galatians 1:6-9), they make one's worship vain (Matthew 15:7-9), and they make it impossible for one to be in fellowship with God (2 John 1:9). Jesus gave up His earthly life for you. Shouldn't you be willing to give up treasured doctrines if they are false and separate you from God?

Are you willing to give your life to the Lord by obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ? Jesus said that you must love the Lord with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind (Mark 12:30). Do you love Him enough to humble yourself in obedience to His will? Obedience to the gospel is what frees you from the slavery of sin and makes you a slave of righteousness (Romans 6:17). Jesus said that the one who believes and is baptized will be saved (Mark 16:16). Are you willing to sacrifice your own will in favor of His? You should. He gave His life for you. How can you do any less?

The sacrifice of Jesus for the sins of the world ought

to move us. It should move those who are not Christians to quickly obey God and become

Christians. And, it should move those who are Christians to be grateful and faithful.

Are You Ready For That Day?

David Weak

We who live on the Gulf Coast hear the same sermon every year from our public officials: *"Prepare! Stock up on water, non-perishable food, candles, flashlights, a radio, and fresh batteries. Keep your important family records in a waterproof container. Be certain that you have enough water and food to last for at least three or four days. It may be that in the event of a hurricane that help will not reach you for at least that long. In fact, prepare for a week or two without electricity!"* So, we prepare. We buy a few extra groceries for our hurricane supplies each week, starting with the beginning of hurricane season. We check our supply of batteries, test flashlights and radios to be sure they are in working order. When a hurricane threatens, we finalize all our preparations, even making certain that our gas tanks never fall below half a tank.

It has been a long time since Hurricane Alicia hit us in 1983, but we all knew another storm was inevitable. Longtime residents still talk about hurricane Carla in tones that indicate they still harbor feelings of incredulity that she could do such terrible damage. So, we prepare. Every year. Dutifully. Hurricane, or no hurricane, we make ready for the inevitable.

However, as we saw after Hurricane Ike hit us nearly two weeks ago, some did not prepare. They did not heed the preparation sermon. Within a day after the storm, some residents of the Gulf Coast were heard on local radio and news reports angrily demanding, "Where is my water and my food? Why hasn't anyone brought it to me yet? WHERE IS MY ICE?!" Some were told before the storm to evacuate the area of landfall, but they refused. Yet, at the height of the storm, as the fiercest winds raged, and the storm surge was coming ashore, they called local officials in Galveston demanding to be rescued. To be sure, some people lost everything they had in the ravaging storm, so they need help, but others just as certainly did not

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